

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 14-32 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 5 shows a signal data frame 48 formatted in accordance with the Ethernet communications protocol. The Ethernet data frame 48 begins with a preamble 50 that allows the protocol handler 28 to lock onto the clock of the host communications controller 16. The preamble 50 is followed by a start delimiter 52 that includes a data pattern that differentiates the start of frame 48 from the preamble 50, and is used by the protocol handler 28 to synchronize itself to the start of the frame 48. The preamble 50 consists of fifty-six alternating ones and zeroes and the start delimiter is a binary 10101011 pattern. Thus, in some implementations, after the protocol detector 28 is set to the detected data rate, the protocol detector 28 is configured to detect the Ethernet protocol based on the distinctive binary pattern of one or both of the preamble 50 or the start delimiter 52. The information in the Ethernet frame 48 follows the destination address 54 and the source address 56. In some implementations, the information consists of a two byte length field 58, a data field 60, and padding 62 (if necessary). The data field 60 typically has minimum length of 48 bytes and a maximum length of 1502 bytes. These lengths translate to a minimum frame size of 64 bytes and a maximum frame size of 1518 bytes. A frame check sequence 64 follows the Ethernet information. The end of data frame 58 is marked by the absence of a carrier sense signal (CRS) on the network.